

The Sun

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1897.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Beyond George's Grave.

In an election so absorbing as that for Mayor of New York the shock from the death of any leading candidate is felt throughout the following of all his rivals. So it is upon the death of HENRY GEORGE, a man of facile, visionary, but sincere mind, behind whom the fortunes of politics had just arrayed in the Greater New York the well-nigh solid strength of Bryanism. It is a pathetic ending of a notable career.

Amid the new perplexities and uncertainties which this event has precipitated upon the campaign there looms up more impressive than ever, not at GEORGE'S grave where the ghoul of the Citizens' Union was early struggling for the votes of GEORGE'S followers, but on its own unmovable basis, the solid rock of Republicanism. On that rest the principles of the St. Louis platform, the continuous partnership of law and order and the material prosperity that clings to them only, the strength of a powerful organized party, and the gallant statesman whose public life makes him as worthy a representative of the Republican army as can be found within the city's borders.

Gen. TRACY stands for no man alive or dead, but for the sound principles of democratic government that have underlain the republic from the beginning, and for the political dispensation which has restored industrial life to the United States.

Vote for him for two reasons: First, because the government of the Greater New York that will follow his election will be better, and more fruitful of benefit to the city than any offered by his rivals.

Secondly, because TRACY'S defeat will be an injury certainly great, and possibly fatal, to the cause of good government which in 1895 and in 1900 the entire country must arouse itself to preserve as it aroused itself in 1896.

Our American Shipping.

The views presented by Mr. CHARLES H. CRAMP to the fall convention of the Board of Trade and Transportation deserve the careful attention of Congress. While the year 1896, he says, witnessed the greatest addition to the world's steam tonnage ever known in a twelve-month, it was nearly all English and German. During this present year, too, Germany's gain will be the largest she has ever known.

England and Germany foster their shipbuilding interests by liberal subsidies. We ourselves began to follow in their steps, about seven years ago, but it was only a beginning. Our ocean-borne commerce is mostly carried on in foreign ships, and to them we pay the cost of transportation. A remedy suggested by some people is that we should buy ships in other countries, and so alter our national policy as to allow their registry here. But Mr. CRAMP points out that shipbuilding and shipowning go hand in hand. The case of Norway, which gets her steamships in England, he declares to be no real exception to the rule, because her ships, transferred to the Norwegian flag for the purpose of avoiding certain English requirements as to loading and manning, and certain English taxes, are still owned and operated by English capital.

From the infancy of steam navigation England has been subsidizing her ships engaged in foreign trade. From 1833 to 1848, says Mr. CRAMP, she lavished \$29,900,000 in subsidies on her steam merchant marine. From the last-named year onward that policy was pushed with great vigor. In 1870, when it was deemed important "to take advantage of the war between France and Germany, and also to meet the threat of a new American line," the subsidies rose to about \$6,127,500. In 1875, the amount, including the naval auxiliary subsidies, was \$4,455,000. The total from 1833 to 1895, inclusive, paid by the British Government to British steamships, is, in Mr. CRAMP'S figures, \$241,928,000. Some resources have also been derived from our own Government's mail contracts with British ships.

To compare with this we have, meantime, our Government's mail and other subsidies to American steamships, amounting to "a grand total of \$28,456,730." The contrast with the British amount for the same period is striking. Great Britain even pays subsidies to some steamships which pay wholly between foreign ports. Such facts and figures carry their own lesson.

British and French in West Africa.

The trouble reported to have arisen between the English and French Governments about the boundaries of their respective spheres of influence in West Africa appears to have grown out of something very like an imitation of JAMESON'S raid by officers of the British Niger Company.

The treaties that have been made between England and France at different times concerning the interior of the Hinterland of their settlements on the west coast of Africa did no more than define in a general way their separate interests, as the natural and ethical divisions were almost entirely unknown. Of late years, however, the agents of the two Governments have been actively overrunning the country with the object of establishing their claims by treaties with the native occupants or by fixing military posts in advantageous positions on the rivers and trade routes. In the case of the French the agents are in the direct employ of the Government, while on the part of the British they are the servants of the Niger Company, organized and carrying on its affairs after the style and methods of the Chartered South African Company. This is the cause of a good deal of trouble for the French Government, which can never be sure whether at any given moment or on any particular occasion the act of some Niger Company official will be supported or repudiated by the British Government, hence endless delays, vexatious disputes, and openings for dangerous conflicts, such as that between the British and French reconnoitering expeditions behind Sierra Leone two years ago in which the leaders on both sides were killed.

The French are firmly established on the Upper Niger. What they probably aim at is to obtain some equivalent from the British Government for their withdrawal northward from certain points in the Hinterland of the Gold Coast settlements. That equivalent would be the River Gambi, with the coast southward to some point above Sierra Leone, if not Sierra Leone itself with its dependent settlements. The English Government would not be likely

to raise any difficulty as to the cession of the Gambi River, with its narrow strip of territory on either bank, inasmuch as it is surrounded on all sides by French possessions, and is quite useless to England as a naval or military station on account of its proximity to the French settlements on the Senegal. It would be different, however, with regard to Sierra Leone, which is now a fortified coasting and naval station, forming a sort of link between English colonies on the west coast of Africa. The communications by sea of France and other European powers with their Congo and South African settlements in time of war.

Unless one or the other of the two Governments is desirous of creating a cause of conflict out of this latest African dispute, it will be amicably settled, seeing there are as yet no established interests in the territory involved which are liable to be affected adversely either way. The despatch of a force of regular troops from Lagos to the proximity of the scene of trouble does not necessarily mean an aggressive intention on the part of the British authorities, and it helps to simplify the situation by bringing the British and French Governments into direct relations, instead of the latter having to deal with an unknown factor in the shape of the Royal Niger Company.

Forward, Republicans!

The Republican campaign will proceed unchanged in its course by the death of HENRY GEORGE.

The calamity which has befallen his mortal remains in no wise the solid Republican army behind Gen. TRACY, except to provoke natural human sympathy for men mourning the loss of a leader to whom they were passionately devoted. That devotion will now be transferred to his son, nominated in his stead.

Gen. TRACY'S election is sure with the Republican party behind him, and, excepting a defection numerically insufficient for the accomplishment of a treacherous purpose of destroying that party, there is such unity all along the line.

Never before were the Republicans of New York fired with a loyalty to their party so intense as that now burning within it, and the spirit of Republicans throughout the Union is inflamed with a like enthusiasm of devotion. The dastardly treachery which seeks to stab the Republican party at a moment when victory awaits it in the greatest and most influential of American cities has served only to make stronger the determination of Republicans to win against their enemies.

Keep close the line, Republicans, and march forward to victory next Tuesday!

Is This Man Insane?

MR. JOHN BROOKS LEAVITT, a lawyer, is one of the guiding intellects and chosen orators of the Citizens' Union machine. In a speech at a law meeting on Thursday night LEAVITT cried out to the crowd, "To jail with TOM PLATT!" and then proceeded to explain that he possessed evidence sufficient to procure Senator PLATT'S indictment under the Penal Code for blackmail. The victim of the alleged blackmailing was the New York Life Insurance Company. The alleged blackmail amounted to \$30,000. LEAVITT announced that as soon as there is in office an honest District Attorney he intends to move for the indictment and prosecution of the Senator.

MR. JOHN BROOKS LEAVITT went so far as to name his principal witness, MR. THEODORE M. BANTA. LEAVITT "did not hear from Mr. BANTA," he explained, "but he does not know him. I shall not make public statement of the source of my information, but I am authorized by my informant to say that Mr. BANTA will not deny the foregoing statement."

The "foregoing statement" is here reproduced, in LEAVITT'S own language:

"A few years ago Senator THOMAS C. PLATT made a demand upon the New York Life Insurance Company for \$30,000. The directors met immediately, and, fearful that a refusal would result in hostile legislation against their company, they decided to comply with PLATT'S demand. THOMAS M. BANTA, the Treasurer of the company, was ordered to pay the money to Mr. PLATT. Mr. BANTA, being a courageous man, refused to make the payment. The President of the company was in Europe, and the directors sent him a cable message imploring him to order the Treasurer to pay \$30,000 to this man PLATT."

"Back flashed a message to Mr. BANTA, ordering him to pay it, but he was old and stiff, and refused to draw the check. In desperation, the directors met again, and a large sum of the company's money was paid to PLATT, without, however, Mr. BANTA having drawn a check for the amount."

"Is not this a plain case for indictment? I would divide to you my source of information, but I repeat my statement that I do not know him. I tell you that, though I have never met Mr. BANTA, I feel that he stands ready to corroborate them."

To a reporter of a yellow journal, after the meeting, LEAVITT added yet another tribute to the integrity of the gentleman on whose testimony the indictment and conviction of Senator PLATT for blackmail are to depend, whenever he, LEAVITT, thinks that the proper time has come for him to move in the matter.

"Mr. BANTA is still with the company as Treasurer. He is a noble old fellow, and it was he who saved the company when President HERRN had so nearly drained it of its funds."

One more quotation, this time from the remarks of Mr. BANTA himself, whose honesty and courage LEAVITT has spoken so highly of, and who, as LEAVITT informed his auditors, "stands ready to corroborate my statements." A reporter of the *New York Times* questioned Mr. BANTA about the story. He replied:

"There is not any truth in it whatever; not a particle. If I remember correctly, some months ago Mr. LEAVITT made some similar charge in guarded language. He said then that he had heard that Mr. PLATT had obtained \$50,000 from a New York life insurance company. To my knowledge, no money has ever been paid to Mr. PLATT, and no demand made by Mr. PLATT on the New York Life Insurance Company has ever come under my cognizance."

There has never been anything quite like this; but there has never been anybody quite like JOHN BROOKS LEAVITT. The Penal Code applies to his case undoubtedly; but instead of crying "To jail with LEAVITT!" we imagine that most humane persons will designate the lunatic asylum as the proper destination of this particular lieutenant of the Hon. SETH LOW.

The Straw-Vote Riot.

The particular form of political idiosyncrasy which finds expression in straw votes has resisted for many years all attempts at amelioration or effacement. The straw-vote collector is of a political type separate and distinct; he is, uniformly, a man without any political influence or following. Such is his marked characteristic and distinguishing attribute that by reason of it he is more readily qualified to "poll," at great and unnecessary waste of time and toil, the predilections and preferences of others in order to mislead.

No matter how often the futility of straw votes, as the guide to public sentiment, is shown; no matter how often the

absurd inaccuracy of such conjectures is demonstrated, and no matter how frequently the results of the official vote are contrasted with the straw vote, so-called, the straw-vote collector, the jack-in-the-box of every exciting and uncertain canvass, reappears with his misleading scores and enjoys an undeserved prominence—until election day.

Originally, the freest field for the straw-vote collector was found in rail-road travel upon which there were no safe means of escape by pestered passengers from the attentions of the man-with-the-pole. In this respect the collector of preferences vied with the candy boy, the popcorn boy, and the newspaper boy, familiar to all American travelers. After these itinerant means of escape were put in a position of nervous helplessness permitting of no escape, the straw-vote man came along with a poll perhaps something like this:

"On the Shenandoah Valley express running between Washington and Louisville, a straw poll showed these results: BRYAN, 438; McKINLEY, 1. The majority was stated that he was undecided and might after all vote for BRYAN."

Or, perhaps:

"A passenger on the Wellfleet local of the Cape Cod division of the Old Colony took a straw vote on Thursday afternoon with the result following: McKINLEY, 6; BRYAN, 2; BENTLEY, 518. One of the Bentley men reported that 'it was this way all through New England.'"

On steamboats, especially at times when they are far from shore, the straw-vote man has enjoyed a certain immunity. Another field for his baleful operations has been the jury room when the jurors were locked in. In Taylor's Mich., during the judicial canvass, there was a poll made of a jury with this result:

"McKINLEY, 6; BRYAN, 1; PALMER, 11."

The absurdity of such computations, visible to every one else, is not observed or observable by the straw-vote idiot. Just now this individual is more than usually busy taking polls of pedestrians on crowded streets of New York during business hours and getting the Majority preferences of suburban residents who have no votes in New York. Unquestionably, SETH LOW, whose grotesque canvass has many elements of appeal to the unsophisticated, is a prime favorite to the straw-vote idiot; and there need be no great surprise that he should poll a large vote among them, or that they should see in him a candidate very much to their liking.

In like manner WASH HESING appealed with almost irresistible force to the straw-poll men of Chicago; but, as may be remembered, he had on election day in that city a straw vote. It was made up of straw followers. There was no substance to it.

The Weyerists at Havana.

It may be necessary for Spain to employ her army in Cuba against the Weyer party there. The leaders of that party have declared their unyielding opposition to the policy which the new Captain-General is empowered to put into execution. They have sent to Spain their protests against that policy. They have got up demonstrations against it at Havana. In proclaiming their determination to resist it, they have used threatening language, even declaring that they will resort to force to prevent its application. They will have no autonomy, no reform, no trucking to the rebels. They are for Weyerism to the last, backed up by the Havana Volunteers and the Casino Español.

We do not know whether Captain-General Blanco has the courage to deal with the powerful elements of opposition that exist at Havana, and that have been organized since Weyer's downfall. If they attempt to enforce the declarations which they have made, he will either have to use his army against them or surrender to them and notify his Government that he cannot carry out his orders.

It is not impossible that Spain's war upon Cuba may yet be brought to an end in an unexpected manner.

Of course Weyer has done all he could ever since his removal to encourage and strengthen the exasperated Weyerist party; but he is too big a coward to take the leadership of it against BLANCO.

Low and Corporation Money.

In his speech at the Clermont Avenue Rink in Brooklyn last week Mr. LOW uttered this praise of the superior virtue of himself and the other superior and superlative citizens of the Citizens' Union:

"The Citizens' Union in New York has taken the ground that they would not allow their candidates to contribute any money, and neither will they accept any money from corporations."

As an ally of Bryanism Mr. LOW is consistent in girding at corporations. Among his own supporters there is a sentimental squad as well as a Socialist squad, and a yawp emitted against corporations ticks the souls of these capital-hating henchmen of a capitalist. But was Mr. LOW'S remark about the lofty scorn of the Citizens' Union for the money bags of corporations as ingenious and absolutely and eternally veracious as the words of a Sunday school teacher ought to be? Where does the Citizens' Union get the money, the mighty big pile of money, with which it is carrying on its war against the business interests of New York? Who groans the wheels? Where do the eminent citizens and kick' get the money which they dump into the C. U. contribution boxes?

They get a good deal of it from corporations. They are, almost to a man, officers or stockholders of corporations. A large part of the large contributions to the cause of virtue and SETH LOW is derived from the earnings of corporations. The Citizens' Union cannot be better than SETH LOW, for nothing can be. SETH LOW, as a private citizen, doesn't refuse to take dividends from corporations. Why should the Citizens' Union, which exists for the purpose of glorifying and spreading SETH LOW, pretend to look upon corporation money as tainted?

The Situation Practically Unchanged.

The sudden death of HENRY GEORGE on the day before the practical close of the electioneering of the campaign is not likely to arrest the political movement of which he was the leader. The prompt decision of the managing committee of the Jeffersonian Democracy to nominate his son and namesake in his place leaves the ticket nominally unaltered.

The assumption of Low, as soon as he heard the mournful news, that he could administer on the political estate of HENRY GEORGE as his natural political legatee was both indecent and preposterous.

The situation so far as concerns Gen. TRACY is thus entirely unchanged. Gen. TRACY is still confronted by a divided enemy, and the Republican party, which has been growing steadily in the Greater New York of recent years, is strong enough

to elect him under such circumstances. The prevalence of the Low sentiment among the Republicans has been greatly exaggerated, as the canvasses of the registered voters by the party managers, both here and in Brooklyn, have proved conclusively. Inquiries instituted by TRACY during the last two days confirm the accuracy of those canvasses by showing that the Low defection is far less important than it has been represented, and that Gen. TRACY is holding firmly the great body of Republicans.

The Republicans, therefore, have every reason to remain sanguine. The George movement continues to sap the strength of Tammany Hall. Low's vote, such as it is, will come chiefly from Democrats. The Republicans have the greater incentive to hold together because of the infamous attempt to disrupt their party, and with such unity as careful examination shows to exist at the present time Gen. TRACY will be elected.

The contest is still between Tammany and the Republican party, between TRACY and VAN WYCK.

A Disgraceful Exhibition.

It is manifest that the only hope of the Low crowd is that they will be able to draw off enough votes from the Republican party to beat it. That animus appears unmistakably in all the newspaper supporting Low; it betrays itself in his own speeches and in the electioneering harangues of his spellbinders.

As the election approaches, the *Tribune*, for instance, throws off all disguise and exhibits the nakedness of its malignity. It is trying simply to beat the Republican party, and with that end in view is pursuing exactly the tactics of the *Evening Post* and the *New York Times*, both avowedly the bitterest enemies of the Republican party. Of the yellow journals, one is an honest opponent, but the other is pretending to support Low and "good government" as a method of hitting a side blow at the Republican party.

There is no honesty in the Low canvass. It is only a cover for a dastardly assault on the Republican party.

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